

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 72

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Ben Lujan

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND THE
12 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FUND, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND
13 OPERATE AN EXTENSION OF THE RAIL RUNNER EXPRESS FROM SANTA FE
14 TO ESPANOLA.

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16 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner express is a commuter rail
17 service between Belen and Santa Fe carrying people to work,
18 stores, entertainment and tourist attractions; and

19 WHEREAS, two phases of the Rail Runner express have been
20 completed; and

21 WHEREAS, phase one established commuter rail service from
22 Belen to the town of Bernalillo in July 2006; and

23 WHEREAS, phase two extended commuter rail service from
24 Bernalillo to Santa Fe in December 2008; and

25 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner express represents a viable

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1 commuter option that has reduced the burden on commuters of
2 rising gasoline prices and stressful driving conditions; and

3 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner express will reduce motor vehicle
4 emissions by reducing traffic volume, will delay the need to
5 widen highways for increased capacity and will reduce highway
6 maintenance costs; and

7 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner express will improve economic
8 development and tourism in north central New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, the Rail Runner express has been well-received
10 and experiences significant ridership levels; and

11 WHEREAS, United States highway 84/285, between Santa Fe
12 and Espanola, has become a major commuter and tourist route in
13 north central New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, the travel demand, terrain and available highway
15 right of way all exist in making a Rail Runner express
16 extension from Santa Fe to Espanola feasible; and

17 WHEREAS, the residents of the Espanola valley would like
18 to see the Rail Runner express extended from Santa Fe to
19 Espanola;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state transportation commission
22 and the department of transportation develop a plan to fund,
23 design, construct and operate an extension of the Rail Runner
24 express from Santa Fe to Espanola; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the extension plan, when

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1 complete, be presented to the appropriate interim legislative
2 committees by November 2009 and to the library of the
3 legislative council service; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the secretary-designate of transportation and
6 the governor.

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